

**Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on  
Student Life**

**Held on Friday, December 6, 2002**

**SGW Campus Hall 769 10:00am**

**PRESENT:** Mr. R. Côté, Acting Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Ms K. Curtis, Ms M. Drew, Dr. S.M. Graub, Ms A. Kerby, Mr. B. Hamideh, Dr. J. Jans, Mr. L. Lawton, Ms O. Maibroda, Mr. A. Munro, Ms G. Pagé, Ms R. Perreault, Dr. F. Shaver, Mr. S. Zuberi, Ms C. Boujaklian, Mr. J. Brisebois, Mr. W. Curran, Ms P. Greco, Ms K. Hedrich, Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms L. Toscano

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Dr. D.L. Boisvert, Ms D. Ross, Mr. K. Pruden

**ABSENT:** Mr. A. Sibai, Ms N. Ngoya, Mr. A. Slater

**Guests:** Mr. L. Bissonnette, Coordinator, Services for Disabled Students

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms Kerby explained that Mr. Bissonnette was at council to speak on recent research on faculty and disabilities. She asked that this item be placed under New Business as 8.3.

A motion to approve the agenda as amended was carried unanimously

**2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR**

Mr. Côté explained that as Dr. Boisvert was away at a conference, he would be acting as chair. He noted that this is the examination period and a particularly stressful time for students. He therefore took the opportunity to thank the students present at the meeting for their commitment to Council. He also reminded Council that the Student Services Holiday Party was Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and he hoped that members would be able to attend.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1,  
2002**

A motion to approve the minutes was carried unanimously

#### **4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

##### **4.1 IITS Report (Mr. C. Buchanan)**

As the report was not available at this time, this item was deferred to the January 24<sup>th</sup> CCSL meeting.

##### **4.2 Recreation & Athletics Financial Statement 2001-2002**

Mr. Lawton noted that the 2001-2002 Recreation & Athletic Financial Statement was included in the Recreation & Athletics Report and was tabled for the interest of Council.

#### **5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

##### **5.1 Reports – Student Services Directors**

Mr. Côté noted that the reports from the Directors had either been circulated electronically to council or were distributed at this morning's meeting. Each Director spoke briefly about their services. A short question and answer period followed.

##### **Recreation & Athletics**

Ms Maibroda asked for clarification with respect to the status of the Men's Rugby Team. Mr. Lawton explained that although this sport is not a national sport, they are afforded the same status as the Women's Rugby Team which is a national sport. The reason the team has black uniforms is because "black" is considered an official Concordia color and is more cost efficient and accessible than other colors.

Ms Curtis asked for clarification on the appointment of students on the "Future Search". Mr. Lawton explained that the students were appointed by the steering committee and were drawn from the various sectors: varsity teams, recreation students and students at large. He indicated that of the 70 members, approximately 18 are students. Ms Toscano asked if there was staff representation on the Future Search to which Mr. Lawton replied yes.

##### **Health Services**

Dr. Shaver gave kudos to the Health Services for their excellent brochure: The Student Guide to Health Living.

##### **Advocacy & Support Services**

Mr. Zuberi asked why there was an increase in international students and in what countries was recruitment carried out. Mr. Coté explained that recruitment is not concentrated in any specific country nor is there a unique region where efforts are focused. He also noted that the prospect of studying in Canada and living in a city like Montreal attracts students from



all over the world. Ms Kerby said she would distribute information on international students and their countries of origins before the next CCSL meeting. She noted that this information would pertain to only those students here on student visas.

Ms Pagé asked if there was information on student gender breakdown. Mr. Côté explained that the next issue of Focus, a publication of the Student Services Assessment Office, would profile Concordia students. He will ensure copies are distributed to members of council.

Mr. Zuberi asked if Advocacy & Support Services would be involved in the revision of the Code of Rights & Responsibilities. Ms Kerby explained that a committee to review the university's Code of Rights and Responsibilities has been established under the chairmanship of Me Pierre Fréreau. The committee will make recommendations to the Board of the Governors before the end of the current academic year. As well a committee to review the operations of the Office of the Code of Rights and Responsibilities has been established. It is chaired by the Ms Drew, Director of Health Services.

### **Counselling & Development**

Mr. Munro asked if there were language conversation classes available for students who would like to learn French, Japanese, etc. Both Ms Kerby and Dr. Graub explained that informal language classes do exist through the ISO Office, Counselling & Development and Peer Support. However, Ms Kerby agreed that these services could perhaps be improved.

Dr. Shaver felt with the consolidation of student services at Loyola a reality, and as the Arts & Science Student Affairs office is also located at Loyola, this would be a good opportunity to ensure a closer collaboration between the services and the academic departments.

### **Financial Aid**

Ms Hedrich asked what the loan payback procedure was with respect to the Part-time Student Loan Programme introduced by the Quebec Government last summer. She also asked for clarification on the eligibility regulations for Masters and PhD students. Dr. Jans asked if information letters concerning this programme had been sent to graduate students as well as undergraduate students. Mr. Côté said he would report back to the Council on these points.

## 6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

Mr. Côté noted that the Board of Governors voted to lift the moratorium on public events related to the Middle East. Student Leaders and the university are currently working on a framework to guide public expression on campus. The "ban" on activities in the Lobby is still in effect.

Mr. Curran said that the 24 hr access to the Webster Library was in effect during the examination period. He also briefly explained the Crepuq pilot project which will allow **undergraduate** students to borrow books from other universities. He reiterated that this is a pilot project and will keep council apprised of its developments.

Ms Toscano informed Council that during the peak period of January 6<sup>th</sup> to January 17<sup>th</sup>, the Birks Student Services Centre and the Financial Aid & Awards Office will be open from 8am – 7pm. She also indicated that in order to provide a more efficient service, the inter-university agreement form is now only available on line.

Ms Hedrich informed Council that during the period of January 6<sup>th</sup> - January 20<sup>th</sup>, Student Accounts would maintain a "drop-off table" for those students wishing only to drop-off their tuition payments.

Dr. Shaver was surprised that the Info Centre, located in the Hall Lobby, closed at 6:00pm. As there are classes held Monday through Friday until 11:00pm at night, she questioned the appropriateness of these operating hours. Mr. Côté said that as the Info Centre falls under the jurisdiction of Marketing & Communications, this concern will be sent to that department for reply.

Ms Maibroda asked what examination arrangements are made for students taking on-line courses in remote areas. Ms Maibroda cited an example of a student taking a course on-line in Northern Ontario. In order to write the exam under the specified conditions, the student was required to travel to a city some distance away. If Concordia is to offer on-line courses, the process must be accessible. Ms Toscano agreed to look into this matter and report back to Council.

On behalf of the Concordia Co-Op Bookstore, Mr. Munro thanked CCSL for the funds allocated to the Co-Op for 2002-03. He noted that although the service is starting off small, there will be both new and used books available as of January 2003.



## **7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RECREATION & ATHLETICS BOARD**

Ms Kerby, seconded by Mr. Zuberi made the following motion:

*In light of the upcoming Future Search conference for the Recreation & Athletics Department and its goals of achieving i) a shared vision and understanding of the value and rightful place of Recreation & Athletics in the life of Concordia University and its role in the wider community and ii) a commitment to foster a relationship that will contribute, implement and sustain this shared vision*

*It is moved and seconded,*

*That further regular meetings of the Recreation and Athletics Board be suspended pending the final report of the Future Search Conference.*

The Motion was carried unanimously

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Appointments to the CCSL Awards Committee**

Ms Kerby, seconded by Ms Pagé, made the following motion:

*Whereas the Concordia Council on Student Life offers awards for outstanding contributions to student life at the University (Merit, Outstanding Contribution, Media and Teaching Excellence Awards);*

*Be it resolved that a committee of CCSL be established to select the recipients of the CCSL Awards for 2002-2003. The membership of the committee should include:*

*2 undergraduate students  
1 graduate student  
1 Student Services Staff member from CCSL  
1 Faculty Member from CCSL  
Dean of Students as chair*

The Motion was carried unanimously

The membership of the committee for 2002-03 is as follows:

Donald Boisvert, Chair  
Reine Perreault – Graduate student

André Munro – undergraduate student  
Bilal Hamideh – undergraduate student  
Dr. Fran Shaver – faculty  
Staff – to be determined

## **8.2 Policy on Accessibility for Students With Disabilities**

Ms Kerby noted that this draft policy has been sent to all students with disabilities who are registered with the Office for Students with Disabilities. She reminded Council that this document is a draft and welcomed any feedback or comments.

## **8.3 Recent Research with Faculty & Disabilities**

Due to time restraints, Mr. Bissonnette agreed to defer his presentation to the January 24<sup>th</sup> CCSL meeting. Mr. Côté thanked Mr. Bissonnette for his patience.

## **8.4 Student Initiated Projects**

Ms Pagé, a member of the CCSL Student Project Funding Committee, spoke briefly about the need to increase funding for student initiated projects. The total amount of funding for student initiated projects for 2002-03 has been allocated. There are no funds available for projects that may be submitted for the Winter Semester. She explained that 2000-2001 was the first year CCSL approved funding for student initiated projects. The approved allocation was \$100,000. Although that allocation has not been increased in the past 3 years, she noted that enrollment has substantially increased. She explained that this increase translated into more students submitting more projects for consideration. Ms Pagé, seconded by Mr. Munro, tabled a motion requesting that additional funds be secured for student initiated projects. After a lengthy discussion, the following motion was put to a vote:

*Whereas all the funds for the student initiated projects for 2002-2003 have been allocated and as there has been an increase in the submission of student projects;*

*Whereas student enrollment has steadily increased and the funds allocated for student initiated projects have not been increased to meet this need;*

*Be it resolved that the Dean of Students Office be mandated to find funding for Student Initiated Projects Fund before the project application deadline of January 31, 2003*

*Be it further resolved that the Dean of Students report back to CCSL at the January 24th meeting on this issue.*

The motion was carried unanimously

### **8.5 Suspension of activities of Hillel**

Mr. Zuberi spoke briefly about the recent incident that resulted in the suspension of the activities of Hillel, a CSU student organization. The CSU said that Hillel had distributed recruitment information for a foreign military government at an information table on the Mezz in the Hall Building. They charged that this was an illegal activity. A lengthy discussion ensued. Council did agree in principle that recruitment for any foreign military should not be allowed on campus. However, as the information presented at Council vis-à-vis the position of the University was based solely on conflicting media reports, Council was not comfortable considering any motion on this issue until an official response from the university was made public. Mr. Zuberi asked that Mr. Côté request in writing that the university make public an official statement on this issue as soon as possible. Mr. Côté agreed to do so.

**9. NEXT MEETING:** Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00am Loyola Campus AD 308

### **10. TERMINATION OF MEETING:**

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Ms Drew, and seconded by Ms Maibroda.